

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

ESTHER G. BISSELL

Born - Bedford, Ohio March 11, 1893

Entered into rest - Cleveland, Ohio - June 24, 1989

We gather today to celebrate the life of Esther Bissell, who had been a resident of Eliza Jennings for 10-1/2 years, since December, 1978.

Esther was born in Bedford, Ohio on March 11, 1893, the ninth in a family of seven girls and three boys. She attended Bedford High School and graduated from Mt. Sinai School of Nursing. She was the only member of the family to pursue a career in nursing. While on duty in the Obstetrical Division at Mt. Sinai, she was present at the birth of her younger sister's son and daughter.

Esther later became a Public Health nurse for the City of Cleveland, working for many years in the St. Clair-E. 55th Street area. During the Depression, she was paid in Scrip, paper money issued by the City. Supplies carried in her black leather medical bag included a small hammer and quarantine signs for measles, mumps, chicken pox, and scarlet fever. After 36 years, she retired from this work.

Her next career was at Huron Road Hospital, where she returned to floor duty nursing for two years.

After that, she was resident nurse at the Florence Crittendon Home for Unwed Mothers, then located on Euclid Avenue near E. 79th Street. She even delivered one of the babies there, when she was about 70.

She had lived at various times on Miles Avenue, near E. 123rd St., at a nurses' residence on Cornell Road, and in a small apartment on Community College Avenue, where she delighted in having brand new kitchen and bathroom equipment for the first time in her life.

After doing volunteer work at Eliza Jennings for several years, and having some friends move there, she decided to become a resident as of December, 1978. Even then, at age 85, she continued to help others by serving as a door hostess, sewing labels into residents' clothing, and working in the Little Store. She continued the last activity up until the time of her passing.

Esther's life was truly one of service to others, taking care of her mother and brother at home, while working long hours. She was always available to any family member who was ill or in need of help. Perhaps she was named for Queen Esther of the Bible, who served and saved her people.

Esther was a devoted aunt to four nephews and three nieces, and extended her love and devotion to the next generation. Probably

her best birthday gift was the birth of a grand-niece on March 11, 1955.

Having used public transportation all her life, she continued that practice when she first came to Eliza Jennings, taking the bus downtown to do her own shopping.

She sustained two serious falls that resulted in fractures of the shoulder, but fought back to regain her mobility and independence,

Her handwriting was still strong and legible at age 96. Her nieces and nephews, scattered in Florida, California and Ohio, will miss her cheerful letters. She will also be missed here at Eliza Jennings.

A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION IN MEMORY OF

ESTHER G. BISSELL

March 11, 1893 - June 24, 1989

July 14, 1989 + + + 1:30 P.M.
+ + +

PRELUDE J.S. Bach
"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

WELCOME John 11:25-26
HYMN see insert

"Amazing Grace"

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 124:8

One: Our Help is in the name of the Lord who
made heaven and earth. Praise the Lord,

ALL: THE LORDS NAME BE PRAISED.

One: I am the Alpha and Omega
the beginning and the end,
the first and the last.

I died and behold I am alive forever more;
and I have the keys of Death and Hades.
Because I live, you will live also.

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Psalms

(All join in unison)

Psalms 27

Psalms 23

New Testament

Epistle

I Corinthians 15, selected

Gospel

John 14:1-6, 25-27

MEDITATION

Barbara Davis

"Trust in the Lord"

TRIBUTE TO ESTHER BISSELL

written by Barbara Davies, niece

PRAYER

HYMN

see insert

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach

"Sheep May Safely Graze"

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Barbara Ann Davis

Director of Christian Education
Rockport United Methodist Church

Mrs. Eva L. Ray

Pianist

Eliza Jennings Home